



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 223-2004

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: August 20, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

Subject: **WEEKLY UPDATE**

The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with an update describing some of the areas the Administration has recently been focusing on:

Emergency Preparedness Plan – City Staff met throughout the week to monitor the path of Hurricane Charley and to prepare in the event of a possible strike in South Florida. Following the hurricane's landfall in Southwest Florida, the City deployed teams of public safety officials from the Police, Fire and Building Departments to help assist with recovery efforts in the affected areas. A separate LTC with additional details regarding our mutual aid efforts has been sent. Staff and I will continue to meet throughout the hurricane season to review, update and enhance elements of our emergency / hurricane plan.

Fire Department – Representatives from the Fire Department, Including Fire chief Jordan, Mayor Dermer, Commissioner Garcia and I, attended the Commission on Fire Accreditation International Conference (CFAI) in New Orleans where the Miami Beach Fire Department earned accreditation, making our Fire Department one of only 102 from around the world, and one of only eight from Florida, who have received accreditation.

Major Events Plan (MEP) – City Staff continued to meet throughout the week to continue planning and preparing for several major events that will be taking place in the next few weeks, including the MTV Music Video Awards and the Labor Day holiday weekend. The MTV Music Video Awards ceremony will take place on August 29 at the American Airlines Arena in Miami with several ancillary events taking place at various nightclubs and hotels throughout the entertainment district of Miami Beach. These events will begin in the evening hours on Thursday, August 25 and end in the early morning hours of Tuesday, August 31. I will continue to keep you posted on developments regarding the MTV event and its expected impact on the City. In addition, staff has continued to meet with representatives from the Air & Sea Show, along with staff from Miami Dade County and the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, to further explore the possibility of having this event take place on Miami Beach.

Organizational Development – As part of my ongoing efforts to meet with staff from all levels throughout all City Departments, I held a brown bag lunch meeting with staff from the Property Management Division of the Public Works Department on August 9. An educational fair was held at City Hall on August 12 to provide employees and members of the public an opportunity to learn about higher education alternatives available throughout South Florida. Representatives from Florida International University, Barry University, Miami Dade College, and several other area colleges participated and shared information about educational opportunities available at their respective schools. The third session of the “Supervision in Government” series, a course specifically designed for new supervisors in the City, took place on August 19.

Union Negotiations – Staff from Labor Relations met with representatives from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Union on August 18 to continue with our discussions and negotiations. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for September 7, 2004. We continue to wait to hear from the Union President of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Union to schedule our next meeting. Our last session was held on July 7 and we have been unable to meet since due to the fact that the Union President was on vacation until on August 9 and their labor attorney is currently on vacation. Staff from Labor Relations is working on scheduling the next session with CWA.

Camp Miami Beach – Camp Miami Beach, a series of arts and cultural programs, sports and recreation, and health and wellness activities aimed at highlighting Miami Beach to visiting families and residents continued with a “Meet the Filmmakers” session on August 12 and a “Family Storybook Festival” on August 14. Both events took place at the Byron Carlyle Theater. Additional details about Camp Miami Beach are available at: www.CampMiamiBeach.com.

Vote Miami Beach – City staff continue to work on the Vote Miami Beach effort, the City’s ongoing campaign to create and stimulate awareness among Miami Beach residents about voting. Staff from our Office of Communications videotaped a segment with each of you on August 18 regarding this campaign. These segments are expected to begin airing on Channel 20 soon. In addition, staff continues to coordinate voter registration drives, with the next two scheduled for Saturday, August 28 and Saturday, September 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on each day. Volunteers from the City, the Gray Panthers, the People for the American Way and the Miami-Dade County Election Department will be at the following locations to register eligible voters: the Wild Oats Supermarket located on Alton Road; Lincoln Road (at Euclid in front of Sushi Siam), and the Walgreen’s drug store on 41st street.

City’s Wayfinding Signage Project – Two public presentations were made on August 16 to give members of the public an opportunity to preview the proposed signage designs and sign locations. The proposed sign designs were presented